Year	Profit Before Tax (PBT) (Rs. Lakh)	Profit After Tax (RAT) *(Rs. Lakh)*
1999-2000	243.55	213.85
2000-2001	26.04	23.75
2001-2002	38.67	35.67
2002-2003	(-)226.42	(-)216.36

2. The decrease in profitability may be attributed to:

(i) Lack of economies of scale;

(ii) Increase in costs of certain inputs; (iii) Competition from imports of comparable products; (iv) Dependence on orders from the strategic sectors; (v) obsolescence of certain plants and machinery.

3. Given the constraints of MIDHANl being a strategic production unit, the following steps have been taken to improve the situation:—

(i) A core group has been constituted in the Company for cost reduction measures;

(ii) Development of new products through Research and Development;

(iii) Broadening of the customer base;

(iv) Regular review of the performance of the Company by the Government.

Reduction in avian menace

1556. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Air Force has successfully reduced the avian menace; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Air Force has taken several steps to reduce avian menace. These include vegetation clearance, use of zon guns, reflective tapes, bird shooters, establishment of bird hazard combat teams, denial of habitat to birds and use of microlites etc.

Flag meetings between Coast Guard and Marine Security Agency of Pakistan

1557. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coast Guard has put forward any new proposals for periodical flag meetings between Coast Guard and the Marine Security Agency of Pakistan;

(b) if yes, the details of the proposal; and

(c) how these new proposals help the Indian fishermen who are languishing in Pakistan jails and the fishermen who stray, unintentionally, in the Pakistani waters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) This proposal suggests alternate flag meetings, onboard ship of Indian Coast Guard/Pakistan Maritme Security Agency, in the month of April and September. Such meetings will facilitate frequent repatriation of the apprehended fishermen of both countries.

Attaining self-sufficiency in missiles defence system

1558. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is still importing surface to air missiles from Russia;

(b) if so, whether India is still not self-sufficient in indigenous air attack missile defence systems; and